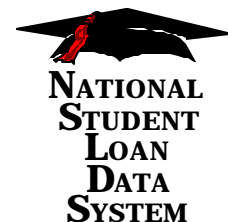


**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**



Year 2000 Testing With Third Party Providers

Testing Approach

December 7, 1999

The following describes the Year 2000 (Y2K) testing of data providers to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) during the test window that begins September 13, 1999. The test window officially ends December 17, 1999.

The test scenarios described are:

- SSCR (Student Status Confirmation Report)
- Title IV Schools/FAT Batch (Financial Aid Transcripts) Processing
- Perkins Schools/Perkins Loan Data Processing
- Guaranty Agency/FFEL Loan Data Processing

1. SSCR (Student Status Confirmation Report)

NSLDS completed SSCR testing with the National Student Loan Clearinghouse during the first open test window. SSCR testing during the second test window will allow schools to test the exchange of student enrollment data with the NSLDS to assure that their systems can properly exchange data with dates in the year 2000.

Any school wishing to test SSCR updates must contact NSLDS to make individual arrangements. SSCR updates sent through the TIV WAN system should be made using the new 32-bit release of EDExpress.

Procedure:

1. NSLDS will provide the school a customized test plan. The school must provide NSLDS with a valid OPEID and TIV WAN mailbox for the test.
2. NSLDS will provide a roster of student enrollment data to the school.

2. The school will process the roster and send roster updates to NSLDS. The updates will have an effective a date of 2/29/2000.
3. NSLDS will process the roster updates on its test database using a 3/1/2000 system date. An Error/Acknowledgement file will be sent to the School.

NOTE: Any school that wishes to test SSCR processing directly with NSLDS can do so by making individual arrangements. Please send an email to Sandra_Fowler@ed.gov.

Schools can contact the NSLDS CSC for assistance. The number is: 1-800-999-8219.

2. Title IV Schools/FAT Batch (Financial Aid Transcripts) Processing

Title IV schools request Financial Aid Transcripts for students through the TIV WAN System. NSLDS extracts the data requested and sends either an extract or a report to the requesting school. The objective of this test is to allow a school to test the FAT process with ED to assure that the systems can properly exchange data with dates in the year 2000.

Procedure:

1. NSLDS will receive FAT requests at its test Mailbox. The Mailbox address to which the requests will be sent is TG54560.
2. Three new message classes will be provided by the TIV WAN system for this test. The message classes are:
 - Y2KFAQIN To be used by schools to request a FAT
 - Y2KFAEOP To be used by NSLDS to send a FAT extract file
 - Y2KFAROP To be used by NSLDS to send a FAT report file
3. NSLDS will sweep the test mailbox to receive FAT Batch requests. The requesting message will have a process date of 2/29/2000.
4. NSLDS will send either an extract or a report file to the requesting mailbox, as requested.
5. NSLDS will contact the requesting school to assure that the requested file was received.

NOTE: Schools must use ED-provided test data for this test. To download test data, [click here](#). This data must be formatted by the school in proper FAT format. It must include valid header/trailer records.

3. Perkins Schools/Perkins Loan Data Processing

Perkins schools must send NSLDS information on loans they grant to students. This information is either sent by a school or a school servicer. The information is sent either through the TIV WAN system or via magnetic tape. The data is used by NSLDS to update its database.

NSLDS has recently updated the software used by Perkins schools/servicers to report this information to NSLDS. This test is to allow a Perkins school/servicer to test this process with ED, using the new software, to assure that the systems can properly exchange data with dates in the year 2000.

NOTE: Any school that wishes to test and has not received the software can obtain the new version of the software by contacting the NSLDS CSC at: 1-800-999-8219.

Procedure:

1. For TIV WAN schools/servicers: NSLDS will receive Perkins loan information at the NSLDS test mailbox. The Mailbox address to which the information will be sent is TG54560.
2. Two new message classes will be provided by the TIV WAN system for this test. The message classes are:

Y2KTSHIN To be used by schools/servicers to send Perkins information

Y2KTSHOP To be used by NSLDS to send the error/acknowledgement file
3. NSLDS will sweep the test mailbox to receive Perkins loan information. The incoming message will have a process date of 2/29/2000.
4. NSLDS will send an error/acknowledgement file to the sending mailbox.
5. NSLDS will contact the sending school/servicer to inform that the file was sent.
6. For schools/servicers submitting data by tape. The submittal tape should indicate it contains Y2K Test information.
7. NSLDS will send an error/acknowledgement file via tape to the sending school or servicer. The tape will indicate it contains Y2K test information.
8. NSLDS will contact the sending school/servicer to inform that the file was sent.

4. Guaranty Agency/FFEL Loan Data Processing

Guaranty Agencies must send NSLDS information on FFEL loans they grant to students. This information is either sent by a GA or a GA servicer. The information is sent either through the TIV WAN system or via magnetic tape. The data is used by NSLDS to update its database.

NSLDS has recently updated the software used by Guaranty Agencies/servicers to report this information to NSLDS. This test will allow a Guaranty Agency/servicer to test with NSLDS prior to sending production data prepared with the new software. The test will assure that the systems can properly exchange data with dates in the year 2000.

Procedure:

1. For TIV WAN GAs or servicers: NSLDS will receive FFEL loan information at the NSLDS test mailbox. The Mailbox address to which the information will be sent is TG54560.
2. Two new message classes will be provided by the TIV WAN system for this test. The message classes are:
 - Y2KTGAIN To be used by GAs or servicers to send FFEL loan information
 - Y2KTGAOP To be used by NSLDS to send the error/acknowledgement file
3. NSLDS will sweep the test mailbox to receive FFEL loan information. The incoming message will have a process date of 2/29/2000.
4. NSLDS will send an error/acknowledgement file to the sending mailbox.
5. NSLDS will contact the sending GA or GA servicer to inform that the file was sent.
6. For GAs or GA servicers submitting data by tape. The submittal tape should indicate it contains Y2K Test information.
7. NSLDS will send an error/acknowledgement file via tape to the sending GA or servicer. The tape will indicate it contains Y2K test information.
8. NSLDS will contact the sending GA or GA servicer to inform that the file was sent.

5. Measures of Success

Test results for each of the four test scenarios will be documented to (1) validate that the test criteria have been met and (2) assist in assessing and correcting problems discovered during the test.

Minimum reporting criteria are:

1. List of institutions submitting test data,
2. Number of tests submitted, passed, and failed by institution, and
3. Total number of tests submitted, passed and failed.

Questions regarding these testing scenarios can be sent via email to: Sandra_Fowler@ed.gov.

Questions can also be addressed to the NSLDS CSC at : 1-800-999-8219.